Grant Services

Funding Opportunities for the Week of February 1, 2007

Contact Grant Services for assistance in identifying new funding sources, facilitation of work groups for the preparation of grant proposals, and assistance in preparing your proposals including editing the final draft, constructing the budget or assistance with completion.

Opportunities of Interest for Communities and Constituents:
These opportunities may be of interest to constituents and not-for-profit organizations…please pass along as soon as possible as some of these opportunities are time sensitive.

American Library Association (ALA)-Deadline: Varies by program
http://www.ala.org/Template.cfm?Section=awards
The ALA provides over 50 awards and grants, most on an annual basis. Most awards are for ALA members, librarians, authors, archivists, publishers, or others who have provided some contribution to library science or library programs. See Web site for eligibility requirements. For more information contact the American Library Association, 50 E. Huron, Chicago, IL 60611, or call 800/545-2433.

Fresh Ideas: Improving the Health of Immigrant and Refugee Communities-Deadline: 4/13/07
http://www.rwjf.org/applications/solicited/cfp.jsp?ID=19480&c=EMC-FA144
This initiative aims to give immigrants and refugees the tools and support they need to improve and maintain their own health. Today, more than 30 million immigrants and refugees live in the United States. They often have high rates of chronic health problems, due at least in part to difficulties they have getting appropriate social and health services. Language barriers, lack of education and cultural differences sometimes make it harder for immigrants and refugees to obtain culturally appropriate services, outreach or other information that could help them live healthier lives.

Challenge America Fast Track-Deadline: 6/1/07
http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do?oppId=12193&mode=VIEW
To support projects that extend the reach of the arts to undeserved populations whose opportunities to experience the arts are limited by geography, ethnicity, economics or disability. State, local, tribal and special district governments, institutions of higher education and nonprofit organizations are eligible to apply. For more information contact the Web Manager at webmgr@arts.endow.gov.

State Partnership Projects-Deadline: 6/1/07
http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do?oppId=12214&mode=VIEW
To fund collaborative partnerships, statewide services and subgrants and planning. State governments, State Historical Records Advisory Boards and state agencies or nonprofit organizations acting on behalf of the boards are eligible to apply. For more information contact David Davis at 202/357-5022.

The Manhattan Institute's Center for Civic Innovation
For the complete story click: http://www.manhattan-institute.org/html/cci.htm
The Center for Civic Innovation's mandate is to improve the quality of life in cities by shaping public policy and enriching public discourse on urban issues. We believe that outdated, bureaucratic, government-centered policies cannot revive our civic health, and that cities will turn around only by devolving power and responsibility to the people closest to any problem, whether they are police beat cops, parents or local ministers. CCI is chaired by former Indianapolis mayor Stephen Goldsmith.

GRANT SERVICES

Created in 2005, the Grant Services Office was formed as a division of Lt. Governor Becky Skillman's Business Office. The purpose of this division is to provide the Lt. Governor's Family of Business' (FOB) agencies with resources regarding new and existing funding sources as they seek to enhance their programs and services provided to the citizens of Indiana. Within Grant Services, there are five full-time employees and student interns, making it the largest staff for an organization of its kind within State Government. Grant Services is located in the Lt. Governor's Business Office at One North Capitol Avenue in downtown Indianapolis.

Opportunities of Interest for IHCDA:

Transitional Housing Assistance Grants for Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Stalking & Sexual Assault-Deadline: 2/22/07
http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do?oppId=12164&mode=VIEW
To support programs that provide assistance to victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking who are in need of transitional housing, short-term housing assistance or related support services. State, local and tribal governments and nonprofit organizations are eligible to apply. For more information contact Katherine Mera at 202/207-6026.

Opportunities of Interest for ISDA:

Strategic Agriculture Initiative/Food Quality Protection Act Grant Program-Deadline: 3/19/07
http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do?oppId=12244&mode=VIEW
To carry out the Food Quality Protection Act and to support efforts by the agricultural community to transition away from high-risk pesticides to lower risk pesticides and sustainable practices in food production. State and tribal governments, institutions of higher education, individuals and nonprofit organizations are eligible to apply. For more information contact Cindy Wire at 415/947-4242.

Opportunities of Interest for OCRA:

Latinos Face Growing Food Insecurity
For the complete news release go to: http://www.nclr.org/content/news/detail/43414/.
Nearly one in five Latinos in the U.S. has limited or no access to nutritious food each year, according to a report issued by the National Council of La Raza (NCLR) on December 20, 2006. Healthy foods are relatively unavailable in Hispanic communities, barely half of Latinos eligible for the Food Stamp Program are receiving benefits, and citizen children of non-citizen parents do not participate in benefit programs due to immigration concerns, the group said.

Opportunities of Interest for OED:

Guarantee Fee Rates for Guaranteed Loans for Fiscal Year 2007; Maximum Portion of Guarantee Authority Available for Fiscal Year 2007 — **Effective: 1/17/07; Action:** The Rural Business-Cooperative Service established the renewal fee rate at one-fourth of 1 percent for the Business and Industry Guaranteed Loan Program and one-eighth of 1 percent for the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Improvements Guaranteed Loan Program, and these rates will apply to all loans obligated in fiscal year 2007 that are made under the cited programs. **Contact:** Fred Kieferle, 202-720-7818. **More information:** Fed. Reg., Jan. 17, 2007, page 1979.

Articles of Interest:

From Local/State Funding Report 1/29/07

Grants.gov Prepares for Increased Capacity

Grants.gov officials are taking steps to ramp up the site's usability and capacity in preparation for changes that are in store for the site in the coming months.

Michael Pellegrino, management analyst officer for Grants.gov, said staff are constantly evaluating its content to make it more efficient, as well as providing links to help users find grant information they need that is not available on the site (e.g., a link to Govbenefits.gov for Medicaid financial assistance). In February, Grants.gov officials plan to conduct usability tests with grantees and grantor agencies to evaluate specific functions. It will apply feedback from these tests, along with results from its online survey, to its April 1 new system launch.

To date, Grants.gov has used PureEdge forms that are native only to PCs. In December 2006, it made available a form that could run on Mac platforms. On April 1, it will begin using free Adobe Acrobat 7.0.8 e-forms that run on various platforms. Agencies will support Adobe and PureEdge forms through October, at which time they would phase out PureEdge packages. Pellegrino said he is working with the Grants.gov community to provide training for the new platform, and is constantly upgrading the training material to ensure it stays current.

The need for increased efficiency and capacity is greater than ever as the site — as of mid-January — had about 32,000 submissions in the first quarter of fiscal year 2007, including a record 2,100 submissions on Dec. 1, 2006. The National Institutes of Health, which awards a huge number of discretionary grants, is requiring the electronic submission of all of its "R01" research grants via Grants.gov, and NIH officials anticipate about 2,500 submissions for these grants on peak days.

Better Searching

Terry Nicolosi, acting program manager for Grants.gov, told the National Grants Management Association that by April the site also will have Google search functionality, which will greatly expand its current search capabilities. It will enable users to search Microsoft Word attachments and PDF files on the site for a particular phrase, and the search will be closer to real-time.

Along with the obvious changes to the site's functionality, Grants.gov is emphasizing data standardization and the development of forms with other key agencies such as the Office of Management and Budget. "We're looking at how agencies are posting their packages, and we're looking at how we can standardize instructions," Nicolosi said. "Agencies may put layers of processing that they do within their program offices that create an extra burden and processing time, so we will work with the OMB and others on how we can establish that standardization."

Grants.gov officials will evaluate the forms to look for specific data elements used by multiple agencies. These common data elements could be brought to the Grants Policy Committee for discussions on further streamlining. Nicolosi urged the grants community to submit specific comments and concerns about Grants.gov to the site. "When you do blogs and e-mails with random chains about what you don't like about Grants.gov, it is not a very effective way to get to us," she said. "It's effective to get to us through the technical form that we put out on the Web site or through our support desk at Grants.gov, and to let us get that communication out."

No Shut Down

When it merged with Fedgrants.gov in December 2005, Grants.gov officials had to shut down the site briefly to move to a single host to unveil new features and enhancements. Nicolosi ensured that a shutdown will not be necessary for the April switch to the Adobe format. Moreover, Nicolosi stressed that the site's features should work toward the goal of greater efficiency and improved capacity. "It's not about Adobe. It's not about Google. It's not about PureEdge. … It's about the business process of (combining) all the agencies (awarding) federal grants money that are competitive discretionary and putting it in place for the public to access," she said. ■

USDA Offers $4.6 Million for Community Food Projects

Nonprofit organizations seeking funding for community food project grants will need to write a letter of intent to meet the first requirement of the two-step application process.

Only agencies that submit letters of intent that satisfy certain criteria will be invited to apply for this highly competitive program. About 20 percent of applications were funded in fiscal year 2006. Since the Agriculture Department launched the program in 1996, about 18 percent of proposed projects have been funded.

Applicants considering applying must send a letter of 750 or fewer words outlining organization details, the type of grant they wish to apply for, a descriptive project title, staff names and roles, and a statement addressing the project's purpose, approaches and objectives. The letter must be e-mailed to comfood@csrees.usda.gov by Feb. 13, 2007, with a "Letter of Intent" subject line. Organizations that sent letters will be notified by Feb. 28, 2007, about whether they meet minimum program requirements and are invited to apply. The application deadline is April 13, 2007.

Community Food Projects

Projects that help communities become self-reliant in meeting food needs, particularly by increasing access to high-quality, locally produced food for low-income residents, are good candidates for this broad grant program. Proposals also should address food, farm and nutrition issues. Alternatively, proposed projects can respond to state and local food needs by devising long-term solutions, improving infrastructure or creating a marketing strategy that benefits both low-income people and agricultural producers.

Certain projects will be given preference. Supporting entrepreneurial projects and connecting the for-profit and nonprofit food sectors are examples. Previously funded projects are listed here: http://www.csrees.usda.gov/nea/food/sri/hunger_sri_awards.html.

In the past, applications have been rejected for proposing projects that were not sufficiently comprehensive. Community involvement and long-term sustainability are key elements. Applications that fell short in previous competitions included those that proposed expanding short-term food relief efforts or establishing community gardens or farmers markets without involving the community in the planning or the participation of low-income people.

Applicants may request funding for one to three years. Individual grant awards will not exceed $125,000 for one year or more than $300,000 for the project's maximum three-year duration.

Training and Technical Assistance Projects

Grantseekers interested in providing services to current Community Food Projects Competitive Grant Program grantees or potential applicants are encouraged to apply for Training and Technical Assistance Project grants.

Supporting grantees could take the form of leadership development, coalition building or project evaluation. The projects could be designed to help applicants understand the application process and what makes up a competitive proposal, or how to determine the food needs of a community. Projects also may offer technical assistance to grantees on how to implement and evaluate their programs. Pilot projects will not be considered.

Like Community Food Projects, applicants may propose a one- to three-year project. Individual grant awards will not exceed $125,000 for one year or more than $300,000 for the entire project. This is the only grant program of the three that does not require matching funds.

Planning Projects

The emphasis of Planning Project grants is on creating food security for a defined community through long-term solutions, linkages and the involvement of low-income community members as participants and beneficiaries.

Proposals should provide an assessment of food system shortcomings as well as assets. They should look beyond immediate goals to address "economic, social and environmental impacts such as job training, employment opportunities, small business expansion, neighborhood revitalization, open space development, transportation assistance or other community enhancements."

The project period for these grants is also three years. No single award will be greater than $25,000 for a single year. For more information visit http://www.csrees.usda.gov/funding/rfas/pdfs/07_community_food.pdf. ■

From Community Development Digest 1/23/07

HUD Drafting Rules on CDBG Program Income & Information Reporting

HUD officials say they are drafting a new rule updating rules to match existing statutes governing the Community Development Block Grant's program income, and say further improvements will be made in streamlining program information collections.

Attendees at the Jan. 9 Council of State & Community Development Agencies update on CDBG programs heard HUD's Director of the State & Small Cities Division, Diane Lobasso, tell them the department is writing a proposed rule that will address CDBG Program Income.

"This rule will update the regulations to math the statute in program income and other areas and will make other technical corrections, " one HUD source says. Because the rule is being drafted, only general comments are being made at this time.

Lobasso also addressed the improvements to the IDIS system and its impact on states, including the rollout of the electronic performance and evaluation reports (PER). The HUD source says the re-engineered Integrated Disbursement & Integration System (IDIS) enables all grantees, including states, to access a Web-based system that provides HUD with information to report to Congress and monitor grantees.

IDIS is the draw-down and reporting system for HUD's Community Planning & Development programs-CDBG, HOME Investment Partnership; Emergency Shelter Grants and Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS.

All grantees would be able to switch from reporting on these programs manually to a Web-based system, HUD says. The same reduced data-entry requirements would be part of the changes made. For more information contact HUD Office of Community Planning & Development at 202/708-1322. ■

Training & Technical Assistance:

In-Depth Review of OMB Circulars – *presented by Howard Gesbeck*
February 12-13, 2007
Doubletree Guest Suites
Seattle, Washington
You will learn what is in the OMB circulars, what is new, what is important, and how to keep your organization in compliance.
http://www.gfp.wipfli.com/training/brochures/seattle_omb+hs_feb2007.htm

In-Depth Review of OMB Circulars plus Head Start Issues- *presented by Howard Gesbeck*
March 27-29, 2007
Hyatt Regency Newport Beach
Newport Beach, CA
Register by March 5, 2007 to receive Early Bird rates!
Day one and two apply to all Federal grant-funded programs, and will benefit anyone involved in administrative, financial, or management areas. Day three is for Early Head Start/Head Start programs. Call Us Toll-Free at 888-876-4992.
http://www.gfp.wipfli.com/training/brochures/california_omb+hs_mar2007.htm

Neighborhood Training Institutes-February 19-23, 2007
http://www.nw.org/network/training/Atlanta07.asp

NeighborWorks America is a national nonprofit organization created by Congress to provide financial support, technical assistance, and training for community-based revitalization efforts. NeighborWorks Training Institutes, which provide courses for community development practitioners and resident leaders, are held approximately four times per year at various locations throughout the U.S. The upcoming Training Institute in Atlanta will include a one-day symposium, "Changes in the Wind - Manufactured Housing and the Future of Affordable Housing," a five-day Nonprofit Housing Management Specialist course, and green courses sponsored by The Home Depot Foundation. The Institute will be held February 19-23, 2007, in Atlanta, GA. Visit the website listed above for more information.

2007 Governor's Conference on Service & Volunteerism
March 12-13 at the Indianapolis Marriott Downtown
Register at www.ofbci.in.gov/conference and click "register."

Paying for Sustainable Water Infrastructure
www.payingforwater.com/
This conference be held on March 21-31, 2007 in Atlanta, GA and will bring together stakeholders from all levels of government and the private sector to explore creative methods to pay for sustainable water infrastructure today and into the future: increasing investment in cost-effective systems and reducing capital, operation and maintenance costs.
Government rates: $275 before Jan. 10 and $350 after Jan 10.

Variety of Support
http://www.iupui.edu/~solctr/non_profit.html
A variety of support services to nonprofits, including a database of experienced consultants, is scheduled to open its doors at IUPUI in February. The Nonprofit Solutions Initiative was developed by the Annie E Casey Foundation, in partnership with the IUPUI Solutions Center, CICF, Pulliam Trust, and several other local foundations.

Grant Services

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We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.ln.gov/lgov/grants

Articles in this newsletter are excerpts taken from Grants.gov, Federal Assistance Monitor, Local/State Funding Report, GrantStation.com and other outside sources and publications.

Newsletter Resources:

Federal Grant Deadline Calendar Thompson. 31 Jan. 2007
<http://www.thompson.com/libraries/grantseeking/fits/calendars/online.html?ID=1170184343451&DEST_URL=>

Funding Opportunities Newsletter Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives, 29 Jan. 2007

Grant Station Your Fast Track to Funding. 29 Jan. 2007 <http://grantstation.com/>.

IN.gov Lt. Governor Becky Skillman. 22 Jan. 2007 <http://www.in.gov/lgov/grants>.

Local State Funding Report Thompson. 29 Jan. 2007
< http://www.thompson.com/libraries/grantseeking/stat/pdfnewsletters/stat2007-01-29.pdf?ID=1170184343451>

Community Development Digest CD Publications. 23 Jan. 2007

The State CSBG Director's Daily Digest NASCSP. 23 Jan. 2007

The State CSBG Director's Daily Digest NASCSP. 25 Jan. 2007

The State CSBG Director's Daily Digest NASCSP. 26 Jan. 2007